### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

SERGIO RODRIGUEZ and	§		
ANA QUIROZ, Individually and as	§		
Next Friends for E.R., a Minor,	§		
Plaintiffs,	§		
	§		
<b>v.</b>	§	<b>CASE NO.</b>	
	§		
NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY,	§		
Defendant.	§		

#### **NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

To the Honorable Judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas:

T.

Northwest Pipe Company is the defendant in a civil action brought on March 27, 2017, in the 236th District Court of the State of Texas, County of Tarrant, entitled "Sergio Rodriguez and Ana Quiroz, Individually and as Next Friends for E.R., a Minor, vs. Northwest Pipe Company," Cause No. 236-291204-17. A copy of the citation on Northwest Pipe Company and the petition in this action are attached as Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively, and constitute all process, pleading, and orders served on Defendant in the action.

II.

The citation and petition in this action were served on Defendant Northwest Pipe Company on April 13, 2017. This notice of removal is filed within 30 days of receipt of the petition and is timely filed under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

III.

The district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction over this action based on diversity of citizenship among the parties, in that every defendant is now and was at the time the

NOTICE OF REMOVAL Page 1

action was commenced diverse in citizenship from every plaintiff. No defendant is or was at the time the suit was commenced a citizen of the State of Texas.

Plaintiffs Sergio Rodriguez, Ana Quiroz, and their minor child E.R. are Texas residents residing in Dallas, Texas, and were such at the time this action was commenced.

Defendant Northwest Pipe Company is an Oregon corporation with its principal place of business in Vancouver, Washington. See Affidavit of Robin Gantt, attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

IV.

The amount in controversy in this action exceeds, exclusive of interest and costs, the sum of \$75,000. As stated in the Plaintiffs' Original Petition, attached to this notice, Plaintiffs seek monetary relief of over \$1,000,000.00.

V.

Removal of this action is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1441, since it is a civil action brought in a state court, and the federal district courts have original jurisdiction over the subject matter under 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because the plaintiffs and defendant are diverse in citizenship.

WHEREFORE, Northwest Pipe Company, Defendant, pursuant to these statutes and in conformance with the requirements set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1446, removes this action for trial from the 236th District Court of the State of Texas, County of Tarrant, to this Court, on this 3rd day of May, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

PETERSON FARRIS BYRD & PARKER A Professional Corporation P. O. Box 9620 Amarillo, TX 79105-9620 (806) 374-5317; FAX: 372-2107

By /s/ Thomas D. Farris
Thomas D. Farris, SB# 06844700
tfarris@pf-lawfirm.com

Attorneys for Defendant

NOTICE OF REMOVAL Page 2

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on May 3, 2017, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division, using the electronic case filing system of the court. The electronic case filing system sent a "Notice of Electronic Filing" to the following attorneys of record, who have consented in writing to accept this notice as service of this document by electronic means.

Mr. Todd Clement
clement@clementfirm.com
Ms. Ragan Speer
ragan@clementfirm.com
The Clement Firm
17855 Dallas Parkway, Suite 155
Dallas, TX 75287
Attorneys for Plaintiff

/s/ Thomas D. Farris

Thomas D. Farris

NOTICE OF REMOVAL Page 3

## THE STATE OF TEXAS DISTRICT COURT, TARRANT COUNTY

SERVICE COPY

**CITATION** 

Cause No. 236-291204-17

SERGIO RODRIGUEZ, ET AL

VS.

NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY

TO: NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY

B/8 CSC-LAWYERS INCORPORATING SERVICE CO REG AGT 211 E 7TH ST STE 620 AUSTIN TX 78701-3218

You said DEFENDANT are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after

the expiration of 20 days after the date of service hereof before the 236th District Court, 100 N CALHOUN, in and for Tarrant County, Texas, at the Courthouse in the City of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas said PLAINTIFF being

SERGIO RODRIGUEZ, ANA QUIRO

Filed in said Court on March 27th, 2017 Against NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY

For suit, said suit being numbered 236-291204-17 the nature of which demand is as shown on said PLAINTIPPS ORIGINAL PETITION a copy of which accompanies this citation.

# TODD CLEMENT Attorney for SERGIO RODRIGUEZ Phone No. (972)250-9250 Address 17855 DALLAS PKWY STE 155 DALLAS, TX 75287

	Address	17855 DALLAS PKWY STE 155 DALLAS, TX 75287
Thomas A. Wilder Clerk o	f the District	Court of Tarrant County, Texas. Given under my hand the seal
of said Court, at office in the City of Po	ort Worth, this	s the 28th day of March, 2017.
	Ву	anthony Ferrara
	-	ANTHONY FERRARA
NOTICE: You have been sued. You may employ	y an attorney.	If you or your attorney do not file a written and writer with the
clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A	M. on the Monda	my next following the expiration of twenty days after you were

Received this Citation on the	'clockM
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FILED TARRANT COUNTY 3/27/2017 2:09:16 PM THOMAS A. WILDER DISTRICT CLERK

NO. 236-291204-17

SERGIO RODRIGUEZ and \$ IN THE DISTRICT COURT
ANA QUIROZ, Individually, and as \$
Next Friends for E.R., A Minor, \$
Plaintiffs, \$

VS. \$ TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS
NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY, \$
Defendant. \$ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION

#### TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW SERGIO RODRIGUEZ and ANA QUIROZ, Individually as Next Friends for E.R., a Minor, and complaining of NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY, Defendant, and for cause of action would respectfully show unto the Court and jury the following:

#### 1. RULE 190 DISCOVERY PLAN

1.1 Damages in this case exceed \$50,000 and it is complex. Accordingly, this case is intended to be conducted under Level 3 of Rule 190.

#### 2. RULE 47 PLEADING

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As required by Rule 47, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, the damages sought are within the jurisdictional limits of the Court and Plaintiffs seek monetary relief over \$1,000,000 plus a judgment for all other relief to which Plaintiffs are entitled. The amount of monetary relief actually awarded, however, will ultimately be determined by a jury.

PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION -- Page 1



#### 3. PARTIES/SERVICE OF PROCESS

- 3.1 Plaintiff SERGIO RODRIGUEZ and ANA QUIRO's current address is 9914 Hustead, Dallas, Texas 75217. SERGIO RODRIGUEZ and ANA QUIROZ do not have a Texas driver's license and does not have a social security number.
- 3.2 Plaintiff E.R. is the 5-year-old minor child of SERGIO RODRIGUEZ and ANA OUIROZ.
- 3.3 Defendant NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY (hereinafter referred to as "NORTHWEST PIPE") is a foreign corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Oregon. At all times relevant herein, NORTHWEST PIPE was authorized to do and was actually doing business in the State of Texas, with its principal office in this state being NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY, Saginaw Plant, 351 Longhorn Road, Saginaw, Tarrant County, Texas 76179. NORTHWEST PIPE may be served through its registered agent, Corporation Service Company d/b/a CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service Company, 211 East 7th Street, Suite 620, Austin, Texas 78701-3218.

#### 4. VENUE

- 4.1 Jurisdiction is proper because NORTHWEST PIPE availed themselves of the benefit of conducting business in the State of Texas and should reasonably expect to defend itself in the courts of this state.
- 4.2 Venue over this matter is proper pursuant to Section 15,001(a) and Section 15.002(3) of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code in that NORTHWEST PIPE's principal office is in this State in Tarrant County, Texas.

#### 5. FACTS

On or about June 3, 2015, SERGIO RODRIGUEZ was working for A.R. Daniel Construction Services, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "A.R. Daniel") on a water pipe project in Amarillo, Texas. NORTHWEST PIPE furnished Permalok pipe for the project. An employee and/or agent of NORTHWEST PIPE instructed A.R. Daniel to connect pieces of Permalok pipe by lifting the back end of the pipe by use of a crane and connective device attached to the cross brace welded by NORTHWEST PIPE inside the Permalok pipe. While performing such activity on June 3, 2015, the cross brace from the Permalok pipe came loose and struck SERGIO RODRIGUEZ causing catastrophic injuries and Plaintiffs' resulting damages (hereinafter "the Incident").

#### 6. CAUSES OF ACTION

Defendant NORTHWEST PIPE, by and through the acts of its employees and/or agents in the course and scope of their employment, instructed A.R. Daniel to lift the Permalok pipe by the cross brace, inadequately welded the cross brace in the Permalok pipe involved in the Incident, failed to warn that the cross brace should not be used for lifting, failed to construct the Permalok pipe with a designed means for required lifting and failed to exercise ordinary care under the circumstances, all of which constitutes negligence which proximately caused the Incident, SERGIO RODRIGUEZ'S severe injuries and Plaintiffs' resulting damages.

6.2 The Permalok pipe designed, manufactured and/or sold by NORTHWEST PIPE which was involved in the Incident had a design defect as set forth in 6.1 above which rendered it unreasonably dangerous as designed, taking into consideration the utility of the product and the risk involved in its use which was a producing cause of the Incident, SERGIO RODRIGUEZ'S severe injuries and Plaintiffs' resulting damages.

#### 7. <u>DAMAGES</u>

- 7.1 As a result of the Incident and Defendant's negligence, SERGIO RODRIGUEZ suffered damages in the form of past and future:
  - A. Medical expenses;
  - B. Pain and mental anguish;
  - C. Lost earnings and earning capacity;
  - D. Physical impairment and
  - E. Disfigurement.
- 7.2 As a result of the Incident, Defendant's negligence and the injuries to her common-law husband, SERGIO RODRIGUEZ, ANA QUIROZ suffered damages in the form of past and future:
  - A. Loss of consortium and
  - B. Loss of household services.
- 7.3 As a result of the serious, permanent and disabling injuries to E.R.'s father SERGIO RODRIGUEZ, E.R.'s next friend, SERGIO RODRIGUEZ and ANA QUIROZ, seek recovery for E.R.'s past and future loss of parental consortium.

PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION -- Page 4

PREJUDGMENT AND POSTJUDGMENT INTEREST 8.

> Plaintiffs hereby pray for prejudgment and postjudgment interest in the maximum 8.1

amount allowed by law on the damages awarded by the jury.

9. JURISDICTION AND MAXIMUM DAMAGES PLED

> 9.1 Plaintiffs' damages exceed the minimum jurisdictional limits of the Court.

10. JURY DEMAND

> Plaintiffs respectfully request that a jury be convened to try the factual issues of 10.1

this case.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiffs SERGIO RODRIGUEZ and

ANA QUIROZ, Individually and as Next Friends for E.R., a minor, pray that Defendant

NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY be cited to appear and answer herein, and that upon final

hearing hereof, Plaintiffs receive judgment of and from the Defendant, in the amounts as

determined by the Court and Jury, for prejudgment and post-judgment interest at the legal rate,

costs of court and for such other and further relief, at law and in equity, to which Plaintiffs may

show themselves justly entitled and for which they will ever pray.

Respectfully submitted,

THE CLEMENT FIRM 17855 Dallas Parkway, Suite 155

Dallas, Texas 75287

TEL: 214/250-9250 FAX: 214/535-6358

Email: clement@clementfirm.com

By: /s/ Todd Clement

Todd Clement

State Bar No. 04361525

Ragan Speer

State Bar No. 24072361

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

#### No. 236-291204-17

§

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SERGIO RODRIGUEZ and ANA QUIROZ, Individually and as Next Friends for E.R., a Minor, Plaintiffs, IN THE DISTRICT COURT

V.

TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY, Defendant.

236TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

### AFFIDAVIT OF ROBIN GANTT

Before me, the undersigned notary public, on this day personally appeared Robin Gantt, a person personally known to me, who first being duly sworn, stated and deposed as follows:

My name is Robin Gantt. I am over 21 years of age, have never been convicted of a felony or other crime involving moral turpitude, and am in all respects competent to testify and make this affidavit. All of the statements made by me in this affidavit are based upon my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

"I am the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Northwest Pipe Company, the Defendant in the above-styled lawsuit.

"Northwest Pipe Company is in the business of manufacturing high-pressure steel pipe for water transmission, and electric resistance welded steel pipe for construction, agricultural, and industrial applications. Northwest Pipe Company has seven plants in North America.

"Northwest Pipe Company is incorporated in the State of Oregon. Northwest Pipe Company's principal place of business is in Vancouver, Washington, where its corporate headquarters are located. The corporate headquarters in Vancouver, Washington, is the place where Northwest Pipe Company's officers direct and coordinate the corporation's activities.

EXHIBIT Page 1

"The instant lawsuit involves a Northwest Pipe Company product known as Permalok, which is a proprietary steel casing pipe joining system. The two plants where Permalok is manufactured are in Salt Lake City, Utah, and in St. Louis, Missouri. Permalok is not manufactured in Northwest Pipe Company's plant in Saginaw, Texas.

"FURTHER the affiant sayeth not."

Robin Gantt

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME by Robin Gantt on this 27 day of April, 2017, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

Notary Public, State of WAShung to

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF WASHINGTON CHRISTINE A NUSOM MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MARCH 25, 2020

#### 

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil di	JORGE SHOOT. (DELL HYBING)	HOND ON HEAT TAGE O	r mbr c						
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Sergio Rodriguez and A	na Quiroz, Ind. and as	N.F. for E.R., a Mi	nor	DEFENDANTS Northwest Pipe Co					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Todd Clement, The Clem	Address, and Telephone Number	r) is Pkwy., Ste. 155,	Dallas,	County of Residence  NOTE: IN LAND CO THE TRACT  Attorneys (If Known) Thomas D. Farris, Amarillo, TX 7910	(IN U.S. ONDEMNA OF LAND	PLAINTIFF CASES OF THE TON CASES, USE TO INVOLVED.  TO Farris Byrd & I	Parker, P. O.	. Box 9	
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in C	ne Box Only)	III. CI	<u>i</u> TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIP	AL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in	One Box	for Plainti
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U.S. Government Defendant	■ 4 Diversity  (Indicate Citizensh.)	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	en of Another State	2 🗇	2 Incorporated and F of Business In A		<b>1</b> 5	<b>≱</b> 5
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☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane	PERSONAL INJURY  365 Personal Injury -	Y   17 62	25 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	☐ 422 Ap	peal 28 USC 158	☐ 375 False C		
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☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract	355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	☐ 371 Truth in Lending ☐ 380 Other Personal	10 72	20 Labor/Management Relations		WC/DIWW (405(g)) ID Title XVI	☐ 850 Securiti Exchan		nodities/
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	■ 360 Other Personal	Property Damage	O 74	10 Railway Labor Act		I (405(g))	☐ 890 Other S		Actions
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220 Foreclosure	441 Voting	463 Alien Detainee				Defendant) S—Third Party	899 Admini		
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	28 U.S.C. Section	n 1332	e filing (	Do not cite jurisdictional sta	tutes unless	diversity):			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of ca negligence; produ								
VII. REQUESTED IN	☐ CHECK IF THIS	IS A CLASS ACTION	, D	EMAND \$		CHECK YES only	if demanded in	compla	aint:
COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 2	3, F.R.Cv.P.				JURY DEMAND:	🔀 Yes	□ No	0
VIII. RELATED CASI	E(S)								
IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCE	KET NUMBER			
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05/03/2017		/s/ Thomas [	D. Farri	s					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY									
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### Supplemental Civil Cover Sheet for Cases Removed From State Court

This form must be attached to the Civil Cover Sheet at the time the case is filed in the U.S. District Clerk's Office. Additional sheets may be used as necessary.

#### 1. State Court Information:

Please identify the court from which the case is being removed and specify the number assigned to the case in that court.

Court	Case Number
236 <sup>th</sup> District Court, Tarrant County, Texas	236-291204-17

#### 2. Style of the case:

Please include all Plaintiff(s), Defendant(s), Intervenor(s), Counterclaimant(s), Crossclaimant(s) and Third Party Claimant(s) still remaining in the case and indicate their party type. Also, please list the attorney(s) of record for each party named and include their bar number, firm name, correct mailing address, and phone number (including area code).

Party and Party Type	Attorney(s)
Plaintiffs: Sergio Rodriguez and Ana	Mr. Todd Clement, SB# 04361525
Quiroz, Individually and as Next Friends	clement@clementfirm.com
for E.R., a Minor	Ms. Ragan Speer, SB# 24072361
	ragan@clementfirm.com
	The Clement Firm
	17855 Dallas Parkway, Suite 155
	Dallas, TX 75287
	214-250-9250; FAX: 214-535-6358
Northwest Pipe Company, Defendant	Mr. Thomas D. Farris, SB# 06844700
	tfarris@pf-lawfirm.com
	Peterson Farris Byrd & Parker
	P. O. Box 9620
	Amarillo, TX 79105-9620
	806-374-5317; FAX: 806-372-2107

#### 3. Jury Demand:

Was a jury demand made in State Court: Yes

If "Yes," by which party and on what date:

Plaintiffs	3-27-2017
Party	Date
Answer:	
Was an Answer made in State Court? No.	
If "Yes," by which party and on what date?	
Party	Date

The following parties have not been served at the time this case was removed:

Party	Reason(s) for No Service
N/A	

#### **Nonsuited, Dismissed or Terminated Parties: 6.**

Please indicate any changes from the style on the State Court papers and the reason for that change:

Party	Reason
N/A	

#### 7. **Claims of the Parties:**

The filing party submits the following summary of the remaining claims of each party in this litigation:

Party	Claim(s)
Plaintiffs	Negligence; product design defect
Defendant	